

DIA review(s) completed.

No. 0804/67

State Dept. review completed

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
21 April 1967

## INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Military Takeover in Greece  
(Situation Report Number 1--2:00 AM EST)

1. The government of Premier Kanellopoulos has been overthrown by a fast-moving and well-planned military coup, apparently under the direction of the Greek Army high command.

2. Kanellopoulos and his defense minister have been taken into custody and other political leaders have been arrested, including Andreas Papandreu and leaders of the crypto-Communist United Democratic Left party. King Constantine has been reported to be under guard at the summer palace at Tatoi on the outskirts of Athens.

3. The Greek Armed Forces Radio announced a Royal proclamation suspending certain articles of the constitution under Article 91 of that document which provides for the maintenance of public order and security in an emergency. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the streets has been prohibited and the stock exchange and schools have been closed. Bank withdrawals and gold and foreign exchange transfers have been prohibited. Hoarding of food is to be punishable by the military courts.

4. At last report, the streets in downtown Athens were quiet and access to the city center was obstructed by military roadblocks. Telephone communications had been cut and both the national radio and Athens airport had been seized by military elements. The US consul general reports that the northern city of Thessaloniki has been taken over by the military but is quiet.

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It was prepared by the Office of Current Intelligence and coordinated with the Clandestine Services.

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5. The coup appears to have been carried out by a high level Greek Army group which had previously prepared contingency plans to round up "undesirables" and carry out a military takeover if necessary to keep the Papandreas from returning to power. [redacted]

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6. The coup group can be expected to continue Greece's previous firm ties to the US and NATO.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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 21 April 1967

## INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Military Takeover in Greece  
 (Situation Report Number 2--1130 EST)

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25X1 1. Athens has been quiet the last few hours. [redacted] the coup was engineered by a group of middle echelon army and air force officers who had previously referred to themselves as the "Revolutionary Council." They allege that they had solid information that the Communists were preparing "to start riots, strikes and general upheaval in Athens" on Saturday. King Constantine and most of the military high command now seem to support the coup and Lt. Gen. Spandidakis, Chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff is reported to have assumed command of the group. It remains to be seen if the high-ranking officers will really have a say in the future activities of the junta or whether they will only be used for window dressing.

2. The "Revolutionary Council," which has been in existence since about 1963, has become progressively more disillusioned with the deteriorating political situation and the inability of the politicians to solve Greece's problems. Many of them had been transferred from Athens to the provinces in 1964 after George Papandreou became Prime Minister.

3. The spokesmen for the coup, General Patakos, told the US Air Attaché that the coup was designed "to insure domestic tranquillity, loyalty to the king

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and allegiance to NATO and the West as well as to unify the people" who had been divided by the politicians.

4. The announcement that former Attorney General of the Supreme Court, Constantine Koliás, would be the new Prime Minister with Gen. Spandidákis as his deputy indicates the intention of the junta to attempt a break with the old political figures while maintaining a predominant voice in the government.

5. An unconfirmed press report that elections will still be held on 28 May as scheduled is a clear attempt to calm public fears of a dictatorship and maintain a business as usual appearance. It is a foregone conclusion however, that the main opposition elements, the Papandréous now jailed, will play no part in the elections. There is no further word on their fate. There has been no reaction yet from the supporters of the Papandréous or from the far left. They may attempt to start trouble when they recover from their initial shock, but the security forces should be able to maintain order.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
21 April 1967

## INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Military Takeover in Greece  
(Situation Report Number 3--1400 EST)

1. The new Greek government, headed by the prosecuting attorney who carried out much of the interrogation of leftist officers accused in the Aspida plot, has been installed and apparently ratified by King Constantine. Only four names of cabinet members were released as of 1830 local time. These include, as Deputy Premier, Army Chief of Staff General Grigorios Spandidakis; as Minister of Coordination, Artillery Colonel Nikolas Makarezos; as Minister of Interior, Brigadier General Stilianos Patakos; and as Minister to the Premier, Artillery Colonel Yeoryios Papadopolous. There is some evidence that General Spandidakis, like the King, was not informed of the coup until it had been implemented, and that they, and possibly other leading figures may be used by the new government merely to lend legality and prestige to its actions.

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3. Most reports however, stress the rigid military control being exercised over Athens and Salonika. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic is barred from the streets without special clearance, and public gatherings are prohibited. Many political, Communist, and journalistic figures have been arrested--as many as 700 people are in custody. This may indicate that a general roundup of persons considered possibly subversive has begun.

4. The US Embassy in Athens reports that senior military officials, while generally accepting the coup, are downcast; the second echelon and junior officers who engineered the coup are "elated." In addition, the palace staff is reportedly "deeply disheartened" by the day's events.

5. The clandestine communist-sponsored radio Voice of Truth, [redacted] has denounced the coup and reported that "throughout the countryside, the democratic resistance of the people has commenced." At present, this is only wishful thinking.

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6. Cypriot reaction to the coup has been circumspect. A Greek Cypriot spokesman stated that his government intended to avoid involvement in any way with Greek politics and appealed to Greek Cypriots to "keep cool." Turkish Cypriots have assured US officials that they do not intend to cause any difficulties. The Turkish Government is, of course following the situation closely, but shows no inclination to exploit the coup.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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21 April 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Military Takeover in Greece  
(Addendum to Situation Report Number 3--1700 EST)

1. King Constantine has told Ambassador Talbot that he was forced into cooperation with the military junta now in power in Athens. He states that he only accepted the new government after a stormy five-hour session with the coup leaders, and characterized them as "stupid, ultra right-wing bastards, who, having gained control of tanks, have brought disaster to Greece." He claims that he considered ordering loyal troops to fire on the members of the new government at the palace swearing-in ceremony, but abandoned the idea, realizing that his palace was surrounded by tanks and other armor manned by troops loyal to the junta.

2. The King has asked Talbot whether there is any possibility US marines could be landed to help him and "his generals" re-establish control; he asserts that Greek troops would not fire on US personnel.

3. Constantine believes that GHQ Chief Spandidakis knew "in general" about the planned coup, but was taken by surprise when it was implemented without his go-ahead. Shortly thereafter, however, Spandidakis agreed to cooperate with the junta in assuming the figurehead post of Deputy Premier. The King is apprehensive about what will happen next and queried Ambassador Talbot about providing helicopters to evacuate the royal family from his palace at Tatoi, northwest of Athens.

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4. The King has also asked Talbot to make a demarche to the new government to "insist" that it limit itself to maintaining order and follow orders of the King. Talbot has an appointment with the new prime minister and intends to urge the government to restore normal life.

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